Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for generating an effective configuration for a managed product comprising:

generating a configuration object for a managed product, said configuration object specifying a configuration for ~~a~~ said managed product ~~using a configuration object~~, said configuration object representing a certain behavior or desired functional state for a software feature of said managed product; ~~and~~

generating a derived configuration object of said configuration object, said derived configuration object representing a modification to said configuration for said managed product ~~using a derived configuration object of said configuration object~~,

wherein said configuration object and said derived configuration object comprise a configuration object inheritance chain; and

processing said configuration object inheritance chain using a parent-child inheritance merge process to obtain an effective configuration for said managed product,

wherein said parent-child inheritance merge process resolves collisions between elements of said configuration object and elements of said derived configuration object having the same collision detection name and merges the configuration

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

object and said derived configuration object to obtain a merged configuration.

Claims 30. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for generating an effective configuration for a managed product from a configuration object inheritance chain comprising:

~~generating an effective configuration for a managed product from a configuration object inheritance chain~~ obtaining a configuration object inheritance chain for a managed product, said configuration object inheritance chain comprising:

a configuration object, said configuration object representing a certain behavior or desired functional state for a software feature of said managed product; and

a derived configuration object of said configuration object, said derived configuration object representing a modification to said configuration for said managed product;

obtaining a mark-up language string for a most-derived configuration object;

converting said mark-up language string for said most-derived configuration object to a derived tree structure having nodes wherein a plurality of nodes in said derived tree structure include collision detection names;

obtaining a mark-up language string for a parent configuration object of said most-derived configuration object;

converting said mark-up language string for said parent configuration object to a base tree structure having nodes wherein a plurality of nodes in said base tree structure include collision detection names; and

combining said derived tree structure and said base tree structure, by resolving at least one collision between a node

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

in the derived tree structure having a collision detection name and a node in the base tree structure having said collision detection name, to form a merged tree structure.

Claims 50. - 51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of Claim ~~51~~ 49 wherein a collision detection name for a node in said plurality of nodes is a name of a start tag when said start tag does not include a name attribute.

53. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of Claim ~~51~~ 49 wherein a collision detection name for a node in said plurality of nodes is combination of a name of a start tag and a string determined by a namespecifier when said start tag includes a name attribute with said namespecifier.

Claims 54. - 56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of Claim ~~51~~ 49 wherein resolving at least one collision between a node in the derived tree structure having a collision detection name and a node in the base tree structure having said collision detection name further comprises:

merging said nodes to form a node of said merged tree when said nodes have child nodes.

58. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of Claim ~~51~~ 49 wherein resolving at least one collision between a node in the derived tree structure having a collision detection name and a node in the base tree structure having said collision detection name further comprises:

copying said node in the derived tree structure to said merged tree when said nodes are leaf nodes.

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

59. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of Claim ~~51~~ 49 wherein resolving at least one collision between a node in the derived tree structure having a collision detection name and a node in the base tree structure having said collision detection name further comprises~~,~~:

selecting a combination of said nodes to form a node of said merged tree based upon a value of a collision resolution mode attribute in a start tag for an element corresponding to one of said nodes.

60. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method Claim 59 where said value of said collision resolution mode attribute is merge.

61. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method Claim 59 where said value of said collision resolution mode attribute is use base.

62. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method Claim 59 where said value of said collision resolution mode attribute is use derived.

63. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method Claim 59 where said value of said collision resolution mode attribute is accumulate.

64. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of Claim ~~51~~ 49 wherein said ~~getting~~ obtaining a mark-up language string for a most-derived configuration object includes:

collapsing sibling elements with identical values of a name attribute into a single element.

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

Claims 65. - 77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently amended) A computer-program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium containing computer program code for a method for generating an effective configuration for a managed product comprising:

generating a configuration object for a managed product, said configuration object specifying a configuration for a said managed product ~~using a configuration object~~, said configuration object representing a certain behavior or desired functional state for a software feature of said managed product; ~~and~~

generating a derived configuration object of said configuration object, said derived configuration object representing a modification to said configuration for said managed product ~~using a derived configuration object of said configuration object~~,

wherein said configuration object and said derived configuration object comprise a configuration object inheritance chain; and

processing said configuration object inheritance chain using a parent-child inheritance merge process to obtain an effective configuration for said managed product

wherein said parent-child inheritance merge process resolves collisions between elements of said configuration object and elements of said derived configuration object having the same collision detection name and merges the configuration object and said derived configuration object to obtain a merged configuration.

79. (Currently amended) ~~A computer-based structure~~ An apparatus for generating an effective configuration for a managed product, said apparatus comprising:

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

a memory having stored therein at least a portion of an application for generating an effective configuration for a managed product, said application comprising:

means for generating a configuration object for a managed product, said configuration object specifying a configuration for a said managed product ~~using a configuration object~~, said configuration object representing a certain behavior or desired functional state for a software feature of said managed product; ~~and~~

means for generating a derived configuration object of said configuration object, said derived configuration object representing a modification to said configuration for said managed product ~~using a derived configuration object of said configuration object~~,

wherein said configuration object and said derived configuration object comprise a configuration object inheritance chain; and

means for processing said configuration object inheritance chain using a parent-child inheritance merge process to obtain an effective configuration for said managed product

wherein said parent-child inheritance merge process resolves collisions between elements of said configuration object and elements of said derived configuration object having the same collision detection name and merges the configuration object and said derived configuration object to obtain a merged configuration.

Claims 80. - 86. (Cancelled)

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888